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Food and Nutrition

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NEW LEGISLATION FOR CHILD NUTRITION AND WIC PROGRAMS

ON OCTOBER 7, Congress enacted Public Law 94-105, which amends the National School Lunch Act and Child Nutrition Act of 1966. Formerly H.R. 4222, the law includes provisions which affect both child nutrition programs and the Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

Major provisions do the following:

- Authorize the school breakfast program on a permanent basis.
- Authorize the summer food program for children through September 30, 1977; and the child care food program through September 30, 1978. These are two separate programs; they were formerly combined under what was called the Special Food Service Program for Children.
- Extend the special milk program to Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.
- Extend the school lunch program to any public or licensed nonprofit private residential child care institution.
- Require all schools to offer reduced-price lunches to children from families with incomes up to 195 percent of the income poverty guidelines.
- Require schools to publicly announce the availability of free and reduced-price meals to children of unemployed parents.
- Change the reimbursement policy for senior high schools so that they are required only to "offer" and not "serve" the Type A lunch to students. However, if students choose to take only part of the lunch, they must still pay the full price.
- Authorize the WIC program through September 30, 1978, at a level of \$250 million for each fiscal year; and expand eligibility for the program to include women up to six months postpartum, and children up to their fifth birthday.
- Call for the establishment of a National Advisory Council on Maternal, Infant and Fetal Nutrition.

The Food and Nutrition Service is currently working on regulations to implement the provisions of the new law.

PAYMENT RATES ANNOUNCED FOR THE CHILD CARE FOOD PROGRAM

ON NOVEMBER 7, FNS announced national average payment rates for the Child Care Food Program. These rates are used to determine the amount of money States receive to reimburse day care centers participating in the program for meals served to children.

Payment rates for lunches and breakfasts are the same as those established under the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. Payment rates for suppers are the same as for lunches. There are new payment rates for snacks.

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The payment rates are 12.25 cents for all lunches and suppers; 9.75 cents for all breakfasts; and 5 cents for all snacks.

FNS will provide additional payment for meals served to children from families whose incomes meet the family size income standards set by the State for free and reduced-price school meals. The States will receive an additional:

- 44.5 cents for lunches and suppers; 18.25 cents for breakfasts; and 10 cents for snacks served to children qualifying for reduced-price school meals.

- 54.5 cents for lunches and suppers; 24.25 cents for breakfasts; and 15 cents for snacks served to children qualifying for free school meals.

These payments will be adjusted semi-annually to reflect changes in the "food away from home series" of the Consumer Price Index of the U.S. Department of Labor.

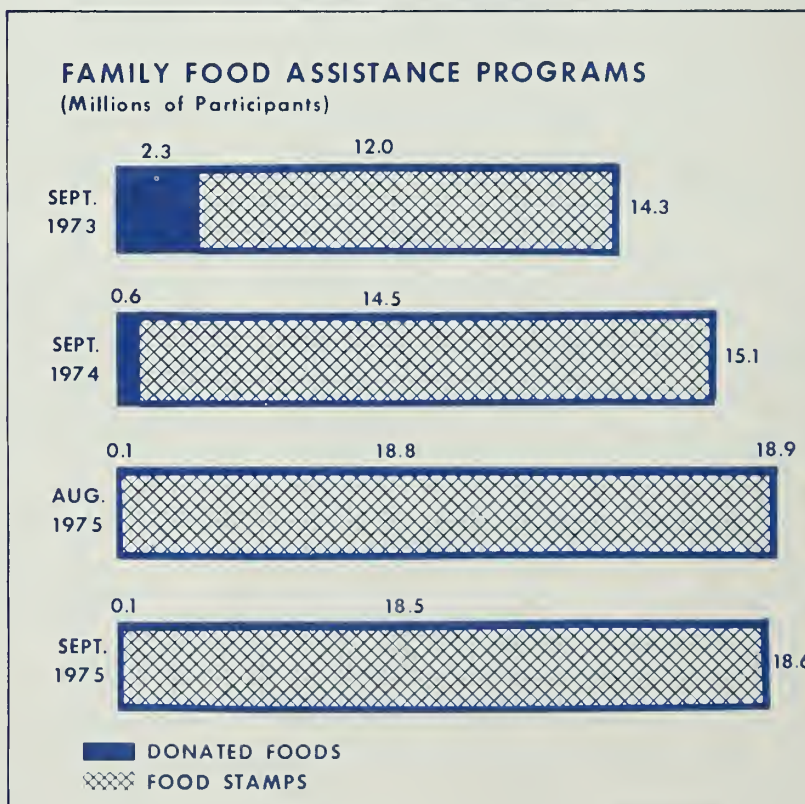
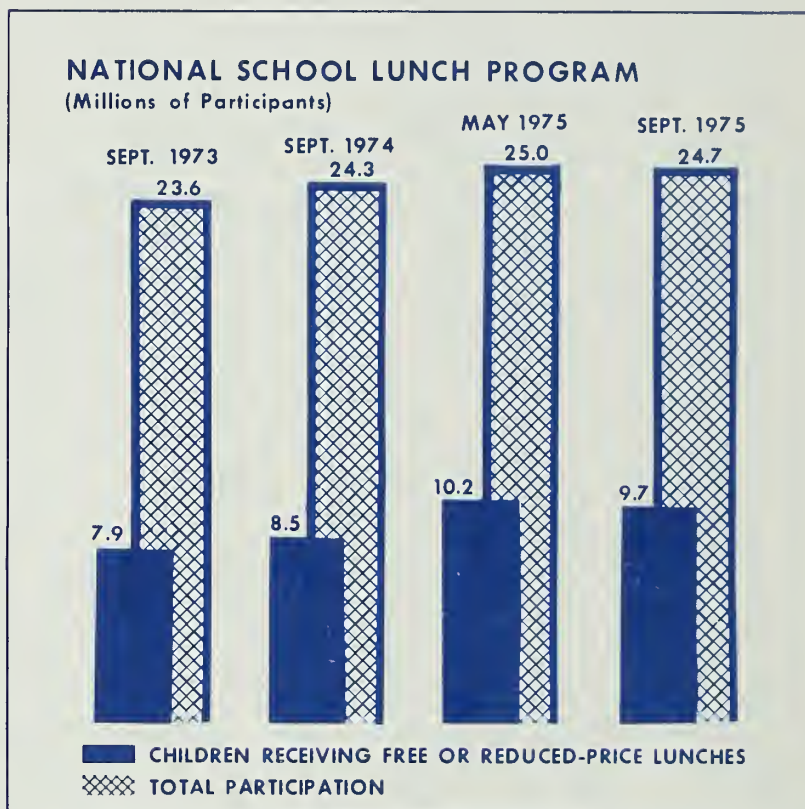
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETS

The National Advisory Council on Child Nutrition held its quarterly meeting this month in New Orleans. In addition to the recent program changes brought about by Public Law 94-105, the Council discussed such topics as: nutrition education, plate waste, milk waste among younger children, a survey on the special milk program, and the Federal-State-local effort to provide management and technical assistance to schools.

LUNCHES REACH RECORD HIGH

THE NUMBER OF LUNCHES served through the National School Lunch Program in fiscal year 1975 set a new record -- 4,087 million. That's a 2.8 increase over fiscal year 1973. Increases in free and reduced-price lunches accounted for this record high. Free lunches were up to 1,538 million, 7.4 percent higher than fiscal year 1974, and

reduced-price lunches totaled 87.8 million, up 94 percent over the 1974 figure. Full price lunches continued the downward trend of the last six years, slipping 1.7 percent in fiscal year 1975 to 2,461 million. Free and reduced-price lunches accounted for 39.8 percent of all lunches served through the program in fiscal year 1975.



Note: The top chart on page 2 includes school lunch participation figures from May, since the program is not in full operation between June and September.

FOOD STAMP CONFERENCE TO BE HELD
THE AMERICAN PUBLIC Welfare Association and FNS are holding a national food stamp conference in New Orleans, La., December 15 and 16. State and local administrators, Federal and state workers, public interest groups and others interested will attend. General sessions will include a review of program history and goals, and current status of suggested program changes. Discussions will also focus on outreach, nutrition education, quality control, issuance systems, staff training, and management information systems.

**FNS ADOPTS
NEW FOOD STAMP REGULATIONS**
NEW REGULATIONS for determining food stamp allotments will go into effect January 1. They comply with the court decision in the case of Rodway v. the United States Department of Agriculture. FNS studied three proposals and over 5,200 public comments submitted on them. The adopted proposal provides a uniform allotment and eligibility standard schedule based on the new thrifty food plan.

Full text of the press release announcing the decision for new regulations and revised allotments and eligibility levels follows on pages 5 and 6. Tables for continental United States can be found on page 6. Tables for Alaska, Hawaii, and U.S. possessions will be published shortly.

In September, FNS announced final regulations on another aspect of food stamp program operations. The regulation change revises the definition of an economic unit, emphasizing that a group of persons who share living costs is not necessarily one economic unit.

However, members of the group who wish to be certified as separate households must prove that they live as separate economic units. The revision complies with a court order in the case of Knowles et al vs. Butz et al. The plaintiffs argued that they were incorrectly certified for food stamps as one household.

FOOD PROGRAM PEOPLE
DAVID B. ALSPACH is Administrator of the FNS New England Regional Office, which opened September 2. The region covers the six New England states.

Mr. Alspach has served as director of child nutrition programs in the FNS Northeast Regional Office since October 1972. He joined the agency as a food program specialist in 1971. For 11 years prior to that, he served with Ohio's Department of Education where he was closely associated with child nutrition programs.

Mr. Alspach's top staff also has extensive experience with food programs:

DARREL E. GRAY, who served as assistant to the deputy administrator for program operations in Washington, is deputy regional administrator.

MONROE WOODS, former assistant food stamp program director in the Western Region, is regional director of the food stamp program.

KATHLEEN MARTIN, who was a food program specialist in the Midwest Region, is regional child nutrition program director.

CHESTER REDER, personnel officer from the West-Central Region, is regional director of administrative management.

CATHERINE (TIMMIE) JENSEN, who was chief of community information with the District of Columbia Department of Human Resources, is regional information chief.

NEW RELEASES

- "Food for Youth Study Guide" (FNS-140) is available for use in conjunction with the "Food for Youth Series." The series consists of ten half-hour television shows on nutrition and food service management designed for school food service workers. The shows can be presented as a structured course through television, at workshops, or in classroom settings. State agencies can receive free copies of the guide. Others may purchase it for \$1.70 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Wash., D.C. 20402.

Although designed for school food service workers, the series can be of benefit to the general public. Public broadcasting stations can obtain the series on videotape through the Public Television Library. Persons or organizations interested in renting or buying the series on 16mm film can write to the Order Section, National Audio Visual Center (GSA), Washington, D.C. 20409.

- "A Daily Food Guide" (FNS-13) pictures foods in the basic four food groups and lists how many servings from each group are needed daily. The guide, which can be used as a poster or teaching aid, has been revised to allow the use of cheese as a meat alternate and to illustrate the variety of foods available in the milk group. For single copies write: Information Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

- "The Food Stamp Program" (PA-1123) is a 16-page booklet which outlines current eligibility requirements for food stamp applicants and answers frequently-asked questions concerning purchasing, administration, and use of food stamps. The booklet also explains meals-on-wheels, fair hearings and disaster situations.

- "Food Stamp Program--A Guide for

Retailers and Wholesalers" (PA-534) has been revised to reflect the new food stamp denominations. The guide offers information for retailers and wholesalers on how to be authorized to accept food stamps, how to handle food stamp transactions, and how to redeem food stamps.

- "Food Stamp Program Cash Register Sticker" (FNS-135) and "A Los Clientes con Estampillas para Alimentos" (FNS-135S) are cash register stickers in English and Spanish which ask food stamp recipients to separate items which can and cannot be purchased with food stamps.

- "Food Stamp Counterpoints--A Manual for Cashiers" (PA-997) has been revised to reflect the new food stamp denominations. It gives retail food store checkers information on observing food stamp program regulations and assisting food stamp customers.

- "We Accept Food Stamps" (FNS-132) is a revised poster for display by grocers who handle food stamps.

Copies of these food stamp publications are available from the Food Stamp Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

- "That We May Eat," the new Yearbook of Agriculture for 1975, features contributions to consumers made by the Nation's state agricultural experiment stations. The 400-page, illustrated hardbound book gives consumers insight into the fascinating search for ways to help increase food and fiber supplies. The price of the yearbook is \$7.30. Copies may be purchased at government bookstores or ordered from the Government Printing Office. Send check or money order to: Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 20402. Members of Congress also have limited numbers of copies for free distribution.

FOOD STAMP ALLOTMENTS; ELIGIBILITY LEVELS REVISED AND NEW REGULATIONS ADOPTED

ON NOVEMBER 26, FNS adopted new regulations for determining food stamp allotments, and revised coupon allotments, purchase requirements, and maximum income eligibility standards, effective January 1.

On Jan. 1, the amount of coupons allotted for a 4-person household will be increased from \$162 to \$166 a month, with adjustments for other household sizes in line with revised economies of scale. The maximum income eligibility level for a family of four will be correspondingly increased from \$540 to \$553 per month.

FNS received a total of 1,958 responses to its invitation for interested parties to comment on three alternative proposals to revise coupon allotments in the food stamp program, all based on USDA's thrifty food plan. Responses received through the end of the comment period, Nov. 13, included over 5,200 comments. More than 3,900 of these comments indicated acceptance of the adopted Proposal III which provides a uniform allotment and eligibility standard schedule, much like the one presently in use.

The uniform allotment is based on the value of food required to feed a family of four persons consisting of a man and woman 20-54 years old, a child 6-8 years old, and a child 9-11 years old. The cost of the diet for this four-person household is the basis for uniform coupon allotments for all households, except for household size adjustments and adjustments which reflect the economies of scale set forth in the thrifty food plan developed by USDA's Agriculture Research Service (ARS).

The revised economies of scale developed by ARS are more generous for households of 6 or more persons than those used formerly in all the USDA food plans. Economies of scale are unchanged for households of 5 persons and less.

The Food Stamp Act, as amended, directs that coupon allotments be adjusted twice a year to reflect changes in food prices as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Cost of the thrifty food plan in August 1975--the month which sets the January-June 1976 schedule--was \$166 for a family of four with schoolchildren.

Maximum income eligibility standards starting Jan. 1 are:

One-person household.....	\$215
Two-person household.....	307
Three-person household.....	433
Four-person household.....	553
Five-person household.....	660
Six-person household.....	787
Seven-person household.....	873
Eight-person household.....	993

For each additional household member over eight, add \$127 to the eight-person eligibility level.

Complete text of the new regulation was published in the Federal Register Dec. 1. Also published were the following tables of coupon allotments and purchase requirements in the 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia.

Tables for Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Guam, and Virgin Islands, which will be based on the tables for the continental U.S. and adjusted for regional differences in food costs, will be announced.

FOOD STAMP ALLOTMENTS AND PURCHASE REQUIREMENTS (Effective January 1, 1976)

48 States and D.C.

Number of Persons in Household:

Monthly Net Income:	Number of Persons in Household:							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Monthly Coupon Allotment:				\$198	\$236	\$262	\$298
	\$50	\$92	\$130	\$166				
	Monthly Purchase Requirement:				\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0				
\$ 0 to 19.99	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
20 to 29.99	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5
30 to 39.99	6	7	7	7	8	8	8	8
40 to 49.99	8	10	10	10	11	11	12	12
50 to 59.99	10	12	13	13	14	14	15	16
60 to 69.99	12	15	16	16	17	17	18	19
70 to 79.99	14	18	19	19	20	21	21	22
80 to 89.99	16	21	21	22	23	24	25	26
90 to 99.99	18	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
100 to 109.99	21	26	27	28	29	31	32	33
110 to 119.99	24	29	30	31	33	34	35	36
120 to 129.99	27	32	33	34	36	37	38	39
130 to 139.99	30	35	36	37	39	40	41	42
140 to 149.99	33	38	40	41	42	43	44	45
150 to 169.99	38	44	46	47	48	49	50	51
170 to 189.99	38	50	52	53	54	55	56	57
190 to 209.99	40	56	58	59	60	61	62	63
210 to 229.99		62	64	65	66	67	68	69
230 to 249.99		68	70	71	72	73	74	75
250 to 269.99		72	76	77	78	79	80	81
270 to 289.99		72	82	83	84	85	86	87
290 to 309.99			88	89	90	91	92	93
310 to 329.99			94	95	96	97	98	99
330 to 359.99			102	104	105	106	107	108
360 to 389.99			111	113	114	115	116	117
390 to 419.99			112	122	123	124	125	126
420 to 449.99				131	132	133	134	135
450 to 479.99				140	141	142	143	144
480 to 509.99				142	150	151	152	153
510 to 539.99				142	159	160	161	162
540 to 569.99					168	169	170	171
570 to 599.99					170	178	179	180
600 to 629.99					170	187	188	189
630 to 659.99					170	196	197	198
660 to 689.99						204	206	207
690 to 719.99						204	215	216
720 to 749.99						204	224	225
750 to 779.99						204	226	234
780 to 809.99							226	243
810 to 839.99							226	252
840 to 869.99								258
870 to 899.99								258
900 to 1019.99								258

For each additional household member over eight, add \$38 to the monthly coupon allotment for an eight-person household.

